



Huxlow Academy

Ambition • Respect • Pride

Our Ref: PLE/KHU/HTLet

Date: 13th January 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

Firstly, I would like to wish you all a Happy New Year and best wishes for 2023. It feels like in many ways this will be a challenging year for our community. As many of you navigate these challenges I would like to reassure you that Huxlow Academy aims to be a supportive and stable beacon in these turbulent times. Please reach out if you feel there is any way we can work with yourselves and further support your children.

We have once again begun the year by reiterating our expectations to students around behaviour. In the House assemblies I discussed with students what the character attributes are that they should demonstrate when they are meeting our school values. These are below for you to refer to at home and to support us in instilling these core expectations and aspirations for all members of our community.

- **Respect** - *Huxlow is a safe and supportive community that promotes tolerance, responsibility and trust. Our staff and students are kind to each other and approach every day with an open mind and positive mindset.*
- **Ambition** - *At Huxlow we are curious about our learning. We are committed to, and excited about pursuing excellence in everything we do. We strive to be the best version of ourselves.*
- **Pride** - *Huxlow staff and students take responsibility for leaving a positive legacy. We support and celebrate success as individuals, as a school, and as a wider community.*

Developing character alongside learning is central to our school improvement actions. The ongoing work to ensure quality learning experiences in lessons continues. At Huxlow we are proud that we are now driving prompt and purposeful starts to lessons with consistent recall starters. To further support us in the delivery of strong starts we would like to ask for your support in ensuring your children are equipped for lessons.

The items that we would expect a student to bring are as follows:

- Pen Blue/Black
- Pencil
- Ruler
- Calculator
- Purple Pen (self and peer marking colour)

When students have these items, they are able to maximise their time in lessons and go on to learn more.

We have already had an action-packed start to the year and some highlights are below.

Students in Music, Drama and Dance have been very busy preparing for the Winter Concert at 6pm on Wednesday 18th January, which was unfortunately postponed before Christmas. This is the first time we have been able to hold a concert since before the pandemic and we are delighted to have items ranging from GCSE Dance, Drama and Music pieces, a teaser from our next show Fame Jr., the Drama club, and many other soloists. Tickets (which are free) are

available to [book here](#). They will then be issued to students via their Form Tutor. Refreshments will be available for sale during the evening for a small fee – this will be cash only. Please come along and enjoy our students' hard work and talent.

On Thursday 12th January, Maddox Jones, singer/songwriter, visited the Academy, along with accompanying musician Peter Marchant, to perform and discuss some important issues with our students in Year 9 and Year 10. Students sang along to cover songs and listened to originals, whilst hearing key messages regarding alcohol and substance misuse, the dangers of vaping and smoking and issues surrounding mental health and making good choices. Two of our Year 10 students had the following to say about the event:

"We should do more things like this. It was good to hear messages from people who have experienced addictions and nice to have people come in and talk about these things. Peter was great!"

"I really liked it because it made me feel really inspired to not take any kinds of drugs and how bad the effects could be. I loved their singing and would love to have them in again."

Rehearsals for Fame Jr. are going well and the cast are really developing their characters and starting to perform with real confidence. The show will be running from Tuesday 28th to Thursday 30th March 2023 – please do put the date in your diaries! Information on purchasing tickets will be released in a few weeks.

All instrumental and singing lessons started again this week. Mrs Runnells emailed the timetables to students and parents before Christmas. Please do not hesitate to contact her via email r.runnells@huxlow.northant.sch.uk if there are any issues.

We are in the process of establishing our Student Council; a body of students who will work with the Senior Student Leadership Team and discuss Academy related issues that they would like to improve and work on as a student body. There will be 2 students per form who will form part of the Student Council and meetings will occur once a month. This is an opportunity for students to take the lead on some important issues around the Academy and be the voice for their forms. Students will be asked to write a speech as to why they believe they should be considered as a Form Captain and deliver this to their forms in order for a democratic vote to happen. The Student leadership team will continue to grow from this, with many other student leadership opportunities being offered in the coming months.

The English Department organised and successfully led two trips to the Harry Potter Studios with some of our Year 7 and Year 8 students on Wednesday 12th and today, Friday 13th January. These students were given the opportunity to experience the Harry Potter Studios Tour and be taken on a literary experience outside of the classroom.

Opportunities for students and staff to get to know each other and have experiences outside of the classroom are key to enhancing the team approach we encourage at Huxlow. More opportunities are being organised for all of the other year groups in the future.

We held the Year 10 Mock results morning last week. This was a powerful experience for the students as they received and opened their envelopes containing the results. Many were pleased and others were less happy with the contents. Mrs Huchet offered some important words of advice, and we made it clear to the students that it is never too late to change how they are approaching lessons and ensure they are working to be ready for their exams in 2024. We have seen a noticeable difference in the determination and focus from many Year 10 students in lessons this week and an increased openness to receive and request support where it is needed.

I would also like to formally welcome the Aspens catering team who have joined Team Einsteins this year. Students have been keen to sample the new menu and fed back that they are enjoying the new variety that is being freshly prepared on site. Some new favourites are emerging, and it has been pleasing to see students trying new things and beginning to broaden their palates. Once they have settled in and the menu has worked through, Aspens are keen to get feedback from the students and parents to help them further develop their offer. More information will follow.

We will be sending out our annual parental survey very soon. This survey is quick and easy to complete but provides valuable feedback to allow us to track the progress we are making. I will send the links out in a separate letter, but I would encourage you to keep an eye out and complete the survey as soon as possible so that we can identify the areas to focus our work on next in our improvement journey.

Finally, I would like to remind you that we always encourage our students to seek out support, and let us know, when things are not going as we would wish. If students feel unable to share concerns face to face, Huxlow Academy uses the online reporting tool [Whisper](#) as a line of anonymous communication within the school community. Whisper allows students and parents alike to report any issues or concerns they may be having, anonymously, through SMS messaging or via email. The school will be able to actively respond to any reports and offer the correct guidance and support where needed.

If you need to report anything, please follow this [link](#). Alternatively, you can send a message to **07860 021 323** starting your message with **HSC1** to report via SMS.

Please have a pleasant weekend and, as always, thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours faithfully



Mr Paul Letch
Headteacher